

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 /031 W

----- 124446

R 192146Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6231

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT CO

SUBJECT: UNO EXPELLS ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

1. THE UNION OF NATIONAL OPPOSITION (UNO), AN AMALGAM OF LEFTIST POLITICAL GROUPS INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, ON DEC 17 EXPELLED ITS 1974 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HERNANDO ECHEVERRI MEJIA.

2. THE CAUSE OF THE UNO ACTION WAS ECHEVERRI'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF RAISING CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES. (THE CONGRESS VOTED IN NOVEMBER TO RAISE SALARIES FROM 20,000 TO 30,000 PESOS--APPROXIMATELY \$1,100 PER MONTH, RETROACTIVE TO JULY. SEE BOGOTA A-210) THE UNO NATIONAL COMMAND CHARACTERIZED THE VOTE BY ECHEVERRI, AND CONGRESS MEMBERS IVAN LOPEZ BOTERO AND CIRO RIOS NIETO AS CONTRARY TO UNO'S POSITION ON THE CONGRESSIONAL SALARY QUESTION.

3. THE THREE LEGISLATORS, IN A WRITTEN REPLY, JUSTIFIED THEIR VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE HIGHER SALARIES ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE NOT "PHARISEES".

4. FOR THE FORTY-FOUR YEAR OLD ECHEVERRI, THE EXPULSION FROM UNO (IF IT IS NOT REVERSED) WILL NECESSITATE A SEARCH FOR A NEW POLITICAL BASE. HAVING SUCCESSIVELY LEFT

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THE LIBERAL PARTY AND ANAPO PRIOR TO HIS ASSOCIATION

WITH UNO, HE APPEARS TO HAVE RUN OUT OF IDEOLOGICAL
OPTIONS COMPATIBLE WITH HIS LEFTIST POLITICAL VIEWS.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Type: TE
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